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3/4/03IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	S. S. Lightstone et al.	Examiner:	Anh Ly
Serial No.:	09/627,662	Group Art Unit:	2172
Filed:	July 28, 2000	Docket No.:	CA990022US1
TITLE:	HEURISTIC-BASED CONDITIONAL DATA INDEXING		

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

FEB 28 2003

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated October 30, 2002 in which the Examiner rejected as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) pending claims 27-56 and further withdrew from consideration claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §121.

1. The Examiner issue a restriction requirement and asked to present claims 1-26 (Group I) or claims 27-56 (Group II). Applicants affirm the election of claims 27-56 (Group II) as requested by the Examiner and the cancellation, without prejudice, of claims 1-26 (Group I).
2. Applicants traverse the obviousness rejections of claims 27-56 and further submit that the rejected claims 27-56 are patentable over the cited art and in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is an amended FIG. 3, with changes in red ink.